

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

17-714

Orleans

EAS.1278

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: EASTHAM

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): South Eastham

Photograph



Address: 1005 Governor Prence Road

Historic Name: Simeon L. and Lizzie I. Smith House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: 1938

Source: Deed research, 1938 USGS aerial photograph

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall/Trim: Woof shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Major addition/alteration (2018), rear addition (2022)

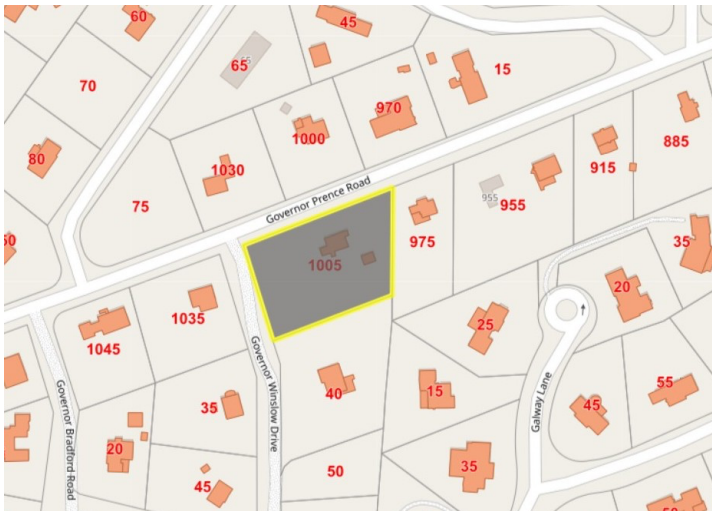
Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.81 acres

Setting: This property is situated on a rural road that was once agricultural with a few farmsteads but now includes a mix of modern subdivisions. The house is centered on its level parcel. The property is left largely open around the house. An unpaved driveway leads up the west side of the parcel.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant, for

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2025

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

ROAD

EASTHAM

1005 GOVERNOR PRENCE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

This house was considerably expanded in 2018 and 2022 in a manner that obscures how the house originally looked – compare the 2009 Assessor photo (Photo 3) to the current photos. The form of the house now consists of a long, rectangular one-story block with a rear ell. The elevations are clad in wood shingles with plain cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles. An exterior brick chimney rises from the right (west) side elevation and another from the ridge of the rear ell. Windows include a mix of modern, thermal 6/1 and 1/1 windows.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Incorporated as Nauset Plantation in 1646, and changed to Eastham in 1651, Eastham territory originally extended south to Pleasant Bay and north beyond Wellfleet Harbor. The early development pattern for what we now know as Eastham was impacted by its absence of deep-water harbor facilities. Relatively fertile soil led to dispersed agricultural settlement, but residential and commercial development was concentrated to the north at Wellfleet Harbor and to the south at Town Cove and Pleasant Bay. When the separate towns of Wellfleet and Orleans were created in the late-18th century, Eastham became and remained one of the least populated towns on the Cape throughout the 19th century.

In the 19th century, Eastham was the agricultural center of the Outer Cape. Crops evolved over time; corn and dairy were surpassed in the early-20th century by asparagus and turnips - two crops well suited for the sandy soil. In 1900, 58% of Eastham's workers were employed as farmers, but by 1930 that number had dwindled to 21%. Summer resort development, including cottage colonies and subdivisions of former farmland that would transform Eastham, had begun in earnest in the 1920s as middle-class access to car ownership increased and Cape roads were improved.

This house has an Assessor date of 1936, which is close but not accurate. This house was built on land that the heirs of Jennie E. Crosby sold in January 1938. Jennie Crosby (1875-1936) had lived at 100 Crosby Village Road (EAS.1268) and the Herring Pond-front cottage next door at 110 Crosby Village Road (EAS.1269). This parcel was sold to Simeon L. Smith.¹ The United States Geological Survey (USGS) periodically conducts an aerial photographic survey of Cape Cod, and they began in 1938. By the time that first survey in 1938 was conducted, this modest house had been built (Photo 4).

Eastham-born Simeon Lambert Smith (1908-1988) married New Hampshire-born wife Lizzie (1913-1996) in Orleans in 1929. They were listed in the 1930 census living in a rented house and he was working as a surfman for the Coast Guard. As of the 1940 census, they were living here in this house, and he was working as a lineman (possibly referring to electrical utility work). By the time of the 1950 census, he was working as a building carpenter, and she was working as a cottage rental cleaner.

In 1997, the estate of Lizzie I. Smith sold this house to Deborah W. King (aka Deborah W. Clarke) of North Eastham. She owned it until 2015, when she sold it to the current owners, Mary and Richard Breese, Jr. of Hopedale, MA.²

¹ Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Book 557/ Page 353.

² Book 29227/ Page 101.

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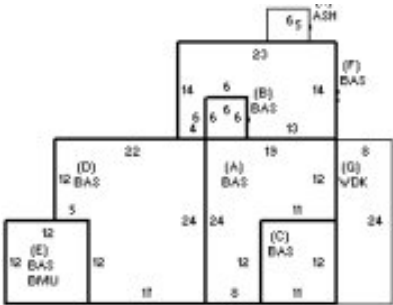


Figure 1. Assessor Sketch.



Photo 2. View from Governor Prence Road, looking southeast.

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Photo 3. View looking south (2009 Assessor photo).



Photo 4. Detail of 1938 USGS aerial photographic survey (arrow to 1005 Governor Prentice Road added).